

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 16 and 28 have been amended by this Response. Claims 1-15, 25, 27 and 29 have been previously cancelled. Claims 16-24, 26, 28 and 30-34 are currently pending in this application and are at issue herein.

§ 103 Claim Rejections

Claims 16-24, 26, 28 and 30-34 stand rejected under § 103(a) as obvious over European Publication No. EP 1,267,557 to Bushnell ("Bushnell") in view of United States Publication No. 2003/0215079 to Watanabe ("Watanabe"). Applicant respectfully traverses the claim rejections for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 16, as amended, recites that a second call number associated with a third telecommunication terminal is identified "*by a telecommunication service located in the first terminal via an electronic directory system located in the first terminal and comprising a stored assignment specification of alternative call numbers associated with the first call number from which the second call number is identified*".

Similarly, independent claim 28, as amended, recites a directory system query unit located in a first terminal which is configured for submitting a query to "*an electronic directory system in order to identify a second call number assigned to a first call number, the first call number previously entered at the first terminal, wherein the electronic directory system comprises a stored assignment specification of alternative call numbers associated with the first call number from which the second call number is identified*".

Neither Bushnell nor Watanabe, taken alone or in combination, disclose the above-identified claim limitations.

The Office Action admits that Bushnell does not explicitly teach a telecommunication service or an electronic directory system located in the first terminal. However, the Office Action cites Watanabe as allegedly teaching the recited telecommunication service and electronic directory system being located in a first terminal. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The Office Action indicates that PDA terminals 130 and 131 in Watanabe are each equipped with a telephone directory application program which stores the telephone number or IP address of the NET telephone terminal 180 as a destination party identification. However, whatever type application program is included in the PDA terminals 130 and 131, it is not the recited telecommunication service or the recited electronic directory system.

Watanabe is basically concerned with use of the commercial implementation of VoIP ("Voice over Internet Protocol") technology. Use of the PDAs 130 and 131 in Watanabe is for connecting VoIP phone terminals, or possibly standard terminals, together to accomplish a call. For example, the PDA terminal of Watanabe transmits a destination telephone number to a gateway 120 together with a request for initiation of a call to that destination telephone number. In addition to the destination telephone number, the PDA of Watanabe also transmits the IP address of a NET telephone that the user desires to use to place the call to the destination telephone number.

For instance, with respect to Fig. 1 of Watanabe, PDA 130 may desire to place a call to the NET telephone terminal 180 as the destination telephone number. The PDA 130 will also transmit the IP address of, for example, the NET telephone 150 that the user desires to use to place the call to the NET telephone terminal 180. However, the call is not placed until an off-hook condition of the NET telephone 150 is detected by the gateway 120. Once this off-hook

condition is detected, the system of Watanabe establishes a communication link with the NET telephone terminal 180, and thus a call is connected between NET terminals 150 and 180. The use of the PDA terminals of Watanabe to initiate such a connection is described at paragraph [0065] of Watanabe, which is reproduced below:

[0065] First, the user activates the telephone directory application program on the PDA terminal 130 and, using a search function of the telephone directory application program, searches for the telephone number of the destination telephone terminal 180 to which the user desires to place a call. The PDA terminal 130 transmits the destination telephone number to the gateway 120, together with a request for initiation of a call to that destination telephone number and the IP address of the NET telephone 150 that the user desires to use. The gateway 120 does not initiate the call immediately but waits. When the off-hook condition of the NET telephone 150 is detected by the gateway 120, the gateway 120 makes a call to the received telephone number and establishes a communication link with the NET telephone terminal 180 connected to the digital public telephone network 111. The call initiation process is the same for the case where the destination telephone terminal is the ordinary telephone terminal 170 connected to the public telephone network 110.

Conversely, the electronic directory system of the present invention, which is located in the first terminal, includes a stored assignment specification of alternate call numbers associated with the first call number (*i.e.*, the dialed call number) from which a second call number is identified. Connection is then established between the first terminal, which originally placed the call, and the third terminal associated with the second call number. The inventive system thus allows a user to choose a number to call when the first number that the user dials is unavailable. Connection is then established between that user and the second number. On the other hand, the system of Watanabe simply allows a PDA to choose a destination call number and a terminal from which the call is to be placed. When an off-hook condition of the terminal chosen to place

the call is detected, the call is placed and connection is established between that terminal and the destination call number terminal. The telephone directory application stored on the PDAs of Watanabe are simply address books from which a user can pick a telephone number, and do not include any type of stored assignment specification of alternate numbers for particular numbers which can be dialed if the particular number is unavailable. Watanabe is distinctly different from the present invention, as set forth in the pending claims, which allows the person placing the call to control the call forwarding aspect. Watanabe is silent as to any type of call forwarding.

Thus, even assuming Bushnell and Watanabe could be properly combined, any such combination would not result in the claimed invention.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that independent claims 16 and 28 are allowable over the prior art.

Claims 17-24, 26 and 30-34 depend cognately from either independent claim 16 or 28, and add features which further remove the present invention from the prior art. Given at least the distinctions identified above, the dependent claims are believed allowable over the prior art and a separate discussion of them will not be belabored for the sake of brevity.

Conclusion

For at least the above-identified reasons, claims 16-24, 26, 28 and 30-34 are believed allowable over the prior art. Allowance and passage to issue are respectfully requested. Early notification to that effect is respectfully requested.

It is believed that this Response requires no fee. If a fee is required for any reason, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 02-4800 the necessary amount.

Should any issues remain, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number listed below to advance prosecution of the case. The Examiner is respectfully requested to direct further communications in this case to the attention of the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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